



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Kodiak Island and the Aleutian Islands, Alaska
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area
(or Location of Position if Type III): Kodiak, Island
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☒ Moderate Priority ☐ High Priority ☐ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: Bison, elk, yak

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☒ Other: reindeer, captive wildlife

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Provide service to livestock producers (beef, bison, elk, yak, goat, poultry) on Kodiak Island, Sitkinak Island, and several of the Aleutian Islands. There are half dozen grazing operations on several of the islands; the largest is on Umnak Island (7,000 beef, 6,000 reindeer, and a small bison herd). According to NASS there are 11 farms with a total of over 11,500 beef cattle grazing on the largest open grass land in the state. This position could provide support as a consultant and advisor to the management of the remote island herds. There are numerous homestead farms, back yard operations, and "cow and goat share" operations providing food for local families and farm market in the city of Kodiak. This position would provide service to these small farms and backyard poultry operations and consult to the larger livestock operations on Kodiak Island. Several of the Aleutian Islands from Sand Point to Sitkinak support beef herds. Many of these operations use horses to manage the beef herds so equine experience would be needed.

There are slaughter facilities on both Kodiak and Umnak Islands and a mobile slaughter plant that services Sitkinak Island. This mobile facility allows cattle owners on site slaughter and processing and the ability to market fresh and retort products. The plant has successfully operated on Sitkinak Island for the last four years. Staffing this facility by FSIS is expensive to support and burdensome due to the remote location, smaller number of animals processed (per day and per year) and seasonal operation.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Position would provide services for a mixed animal practice; 70% domestic pets, equine and 30% food producing animals. Routine health care operations at a clinic or mobile operation, as well as, a mobile large animal practice to possibly extend to island herds in the immediate vicinity of Kodiak Island. Herd health consultation to more remote island herds (Umnak, Sand Point, and Chirikof). This position would interact with University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extension officers for forage analysis and nutritional management. There are a few hunt operations (elk and bison) that operate on the island and have requested veterinary support for herd health and CWD testing.

This position would also support emergency response to morbidity/mortality investigations and emergency response to any hazards that would impact animal health. This area has experienced different natural disasters such as: earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic emissions.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

No previous efforts to recruit veterinary services have been made from this office other than the position nomination through this program. The only veterinary clinic on the island is strictly a small animal practice and provides no service to livestock. Most producers use long distance (phone, radio) consultation to practitioners to provide herd management support. Livestock operators have made requests of this office and University Cooperative Extension for support. The University of Fairbanks has developed a 2 +2 Veterinary Program with Colorado State and has hired a livestock extension veterinarian that will be of support for this position in serving the livestock producers in this area. Two sheep and goat owners have repeatedly contacted this office requesting veterinary support for the development of a small ruminant dairy with secondary meat and fiber production.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Risk for not securing a food animal practitioner: Food security is major concern, as well as, food safety for products sold in local farm markets, farm gate sales and emergency response to a disease outbreak. The elimination of local production of food would restrict these island communities to rely on products being shipped in for sale and distribution. Without veterinary support producers will be limited in their ability to efficiently raise livestock and more producers will likely cease production. Herd health management consultation could increase production and profit for producers and so expand the market for the free range organic beef and reindeer raised on the remote island grasslands.

Without support from veterinary practitioners in the field the state and agricultural industry will be ill prepared to identify and diagnose morbidity and mortality events that can have impact on animal and public health. In addition, without this position the state may not be able to effectively manage emergency response to a hazard that impacts domestic animals and animal health.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation



By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.



By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Robert F. Gerlach, VMD

Title: Alaska State Veterinarian

Organization: Dept. of Environmental Conservation

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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